

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, applicants have inserted cross-reference to a related application. A prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully present that although Martensson (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,778) was cited against the parent application (U.S. Appl. No. 09/601,573), this reference cannot be used in the present application in order to form an obviousness rejection under 35 USC § 103. Specifically, the present application, having a filing date after November 29, 1999, and Martensson were, at the time the invention of the subject matter of the present application was made, owned or subject to an obligation of assignment to Perstorp Flooring AB. Martensson is not a proper reference for use in an obviousness rejection where it would qualify as prior art under 35 USC § 102(e).

Even if Martensson were a proper reference, the amendments to the present claims overcomes this rejection. Specifically, as amended, the present claims define the guiding wedge as having a distal tapered section and a second section extending to the core of the board. An example of this feature is shown at Fig. 3. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by the cited references.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the existing claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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